INTERIOR FURNISHING OF THE BARRIO HOUSE

The typical Caticugan dwelling has two rooms--the sala or the living, dining bed-room, and kitchen. Sometimes the kitchen is completely separated from the sala but there may be only a partial partition. Some dwellings have a third room, a combined bedroom and storage space. Normally this room lacks beds and is used mainly to store boxes of clothing, sleeping mats, grain or other household equipment. Rarely do the "bedrooms" have windows; most barriofolk believe that night air is not healthy. In the poblacion many principalia shutter their bedroom windows when they retire; another reason is to discourage thieves. However, fresh air circulates through the loose walls and the slat floors.

In Caticugan the sala usually has a table and one or more wooden benches; sometimes benches of bamboo are fixed to the wall. Very few chairs occur in barrio dwellings although they are quite common in better houses in the poblacion. In two houses, one in Barrio Caticugan and the other in Naga, Singer sewing machines were seen. Most houses have a few pictures on the walls. The walls of the sala may be covered with colored illustrations from newspapers and magazines, mostly of American origin, and pictures of Filipino movie stars from the Cebuano-dialect magazine, Bisaya.[4]

[4] Bisaya is the most widely read dialect magazine in Siaton; it is a weekly, published in Manila, with a 1954 circulation of 2,973 in Negros Oriental. The magazine, first started in 1946, contains short stories, comics,

Calendars with pictures of the Holy Family or religious scenes are common in the dwellings; these calendars are distributed free by Dumaguete Chinese merchants. Photographs are fairly typical—pictures of weddings, funerals, relatives, school graduations, etc. A few houses had an aparado, a chest cupboard, often with glass doors.

Every Caticugan dwelling had a family or domestic altar. In some cases the altar was merely a religious picture or a cheap plaster figure of a saint placed on a small shelf or, in one case, on the top of a trunk. A few altars were quite elaborate with two or three religious figures and pictures, vases (often beer bottles) for flowers, and paper cut-out or tinfoil decorations. Some altars have a small tin container filled with coconut oil with a wick made from a twist of kapok or native cotton.[5] The most elaborate altar in Caticugan belonged to two unmarried brothers who lived together; both young men were considered to be bayutes, highly feminine-acting men.

Little care is given most altars; they are often dirty and disarranged. During a novena or the fiesta, however, the altars are cleaned, rearranged and fresh flowers put in the vases.

4 (Continued) and several pages of current events. Personal communication to the writer from Mr. B. Canete, Circulation Manager, Liwayway Publications, Inc., Manila, April 3, 1954. Typescript.

[5] There are two varieties of tree cotton in Caticugan, gapas gamay and gapas dako; both were identified as Gossypium brasiliense Macf. Also see Brown, op. cit., II, pp. 401-3.